## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing of claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method of casing a well bore comprising: placing a casing into the well bore, the providing a casing comprising
  - a sleeve, and
- a stress-absorbing material that is coated on the sleeve to form a casing coating, wherein the casing coating covers a circumferential area of the sleeve along a length of the sleeve, surrounds at least a portion of the sleeve; and
- a collar connected to an end of the sleeve, the collar comprising the stressabsorbing material

placing the casing into the well bore.

- 2-4. (Canceled)
- 5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the casing coating is coated on an interior surface of the sleeve.
- 6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the casing coating is coated on an exterior surface of the sleeve.
- 7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the casing coating has a thickness of less than about three inches.
- 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the casing coating is applied to the sleeve by extrusion, showering, dipping, brush coating, powder coating, or hot melting.
- 9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the stress-absorbing material comprises a fiber, a resin, or an elastomer.
  - 10. (Canceled)

- 11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim\_1 10-wherein the casing collar further comprises a hollow cylindrically shaped housing.
- 12. (Withdrawn Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 10-wherein the stress-absorbing material is embedded within the cylindrically shaped housing.
- 13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein the stress-absorbing material forms a collar coating coated on a surface of the hollow cylindrically shaped housing.
  - 14. (Currently Amended) A method of casing a well bore comprising:

    placing a casing into the well bore, the providing a casing comprising
    a sleeve, and
- a casing coating comprising a stress-absorbing material coated on the sleeve to surround at least a portion of the sleeve, wherein the stress-absorbing material comprises fibers and covers a circumferential area of the sleeve along a length of the sleeve; and placing the casing into the well bore.
- 15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the casing coating is coated on an exterior surface of the sleeve.
- 16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the casing coating is coated on an interior surface of the sleeve.
- 17. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the casing coating has a thickness of less than about three inches.
- 18. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein the casing coating is applied to the sleeve by extrusion, showering, dipping, brush coating, powder coating, or hot melting.

- 19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the fibers comprise polypropylene fibers, nylon fibers, or carbons fibers.
- 20. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein a casing collar is connected to an end of the casing.
- 21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the casing collar comprises a hollow cylindrically shaped housing, and a collar coating comprising a stress-absorbing material coated on the hollow cylindrically shaped housing.
- 22. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the transmission of stress from a casing to a cement sheath comprising:

placing the casing into a well bore that penetrates a subterranean formation, the providing a casing comprising that comprises a sleeve, and a stress-absorbing material that is coated on the sleeve to form a casing coating, and a collar connected to an end of the sleeve, the collar comprising the stress-absorbing material, wherein the casing coating covers a circumferential area of the sleeve along a length of the sleeve surrounds at least a portion of the sleeve;

placing the casing into a well-bore that penetrates a subterranean formation, thereby forming an annulus between the casing and the subterranean formation;

placing a cement composition into <u>an annulus between the casing and the subterranean formation</u> the annulus; and

allowing the cement composition to set within the annulus so as to bond the casing to a portion of the subterranean formation.

## 23-25. (Canceled)

- 26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the casing coating is coated on an interior surface of the sleeve.
- 27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the casing coating is coated on an exterior surface of the sleeve.

- 28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the casing coating has a thickness of less than about three inches.
- 29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the casing coating is applied to the sleeve by extrusion, showering, dipping, brush coating, powder coating, or hot melting.
- 30. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the stress-absorbing material comprises a fiber, a resin, or an elastomer.
  - 31. (Canceled)
- 32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22 31—wherein the casing collar further comprises a hollow cylindrically shaped housing.
- 33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32 wherein the stress-absorbing material is embedded within the cylindrically shaped housing.
- 34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the stress-absorbing material forms a collar coating coated on a surface of the hollow cylindrically shaped housing.
- 35. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing the transmission of stress from a casing to a cement sheath comprising:

placing the casing into a well bore that penetrates a subterranean formation, the providing a casing comprising that comprises

a sleeve, and

a casing coating comprising a stress-absorbing material coated on the sleeve to surround at least a portion of the sleeve, wherein the stress-absorbing material comprises fibers and covers a circumferential area of the sleeve along a length of the sleeve; and

Serial No. 10/807,625 Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed September 28, 2006

placing the casing into a well bore that penetrates a subterranean formation, thereby forming an annulus between the casing and the subterranean-formation;

placing a cement composition into <u>an annulus between the casing and the subterranean formation the annulus</u>; and

allowing the cement composition to set within the annulus so as to bond the casing to a portion of the subterranean formation.

- 36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the casing coating is coated on an exterior surface of the sleeve.
- 37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the casing coating is coated on an interior surface of the sleeve.
- 38. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein the casing coating has a thickness of less than about three inches.
- 39. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein the casing coating is applied to the casing by extrusion, showering, dipping, brush coating, powder coating, or hot melting.
- 40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the fibers comprise polypropylene fibers, nylon fibers, or carbons fibers.
- 41. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein a casing collar is connected to an end of the casing.
- 42. (Original) The method of claim 41 wherein the casing collar comprises a hollow cylindrically shaped housing, and a collar coating comprising a stress-absorbing material disposed on the housing.
- 43. (Currently Amended) An improved casing comprising a sleeve, -and-a stress-absorbing material that is coated on the sleeve to form a casing coating, and a collar connected to an end of the sleeve, the collar comprising the stress-absorbing material,

wherein the casing coating <u>covers a circumferential area of the sleeve along a length of the sleeve</u> surrounds at least a portion of the sleeve.

## 44-46. (Canceled)

- 47. (Previously Presented) The improved casing of claim 43 wherein the casing coating is coated on an interior surface of the sleeve.
- 48. (Previously Presented) The improved casing of claim 43 wherein the casing coating is coated on an exterior surface of the sleeve.
- 49. (Previously Presented) The improved casing of claim 43 wherein the casing coating has a thickness of less than about three inches.
- 50. (Previously Presented) The improved casing of claim 43 wherein the casing coating is applied to the sleeve by extrusion, showering, dipping, brush coating, powder coating, or hot melting.
- 51. (Original) The improved casing of claim 43 wherein the stress-absorbing material comprises a fiber, a resin, or an elastomer.
  - 52. (Currently Amended) An improved casing comprising:

a sleeve; and

a casing coating comprising a stress-absorbing material coated on the sleeve to that covers a circumferential area of the sleeve along a length of the sleeve, surround at least a portion of the sleeve, wherein the stress-absorbing material comprises fibers.

- 53. (Previously Presented) The improved casing of claim 52 wherein the casing coating is coated on an interior surface of the sleeve.
- 54. (Previously Presented) The improved casing of claim 52 wherein the casing coating is coated on an exterior surface of the sleeve.

Serial No. 10/807,625 Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed September 28, 2006

- 55. (Original) The improved casing of claim 52 wherein the casing coating has a thickness of less than about three inches.
- 56. (Original) The improved casing of claim 52 wherein the casing coating is applied to the sleeve by extrusion, showering, dipping, brush coating, powder coating, or hot melting.
- 57. (Previously Presented) The improved casing of claim 52 wherein the fibers comprise polypropylene fibers, nylon fibers, or carbons fibers.
- 58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining a high stress zone of a subterranean formation penetrated by the well bore, and wherein placing the casing into the well bore comprises placing the casing into the high stress zone.
- 59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 further comprising determining a high stress zone of a subterranean formation penetrated by the well bore, and wherein placing the casing into the well bore comprises placing the casing into the high stress zone.
- 60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising determining a high stress zone in the subterranean formation, and wherein placing the casing into the well bore comprises placing the casing into the high stress zone.
- 61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 further comprising determining a high stress zone in the subterranean formation, and wherein placing the casing into the well bore comprises placing the casing into the high stress zone.